

Meaningful Measures for Quality Recreation Management

RECREATION SITES

National Quality Standards
February 5, 2002

National Quality Standards define the corporate level of quality the Forest Service expects to provide the public at full service (Forest Plan) levels. These standards form the baseline for estimating the total cost of providing the quality opportunities visitors and customer's desire.

Recreation Program Components with National Quality Standards include: Developed Sites, Trails, General Forest Areas, Interpretive Services and Recreation Special Use Permit Administration. National Quality Standards for these components have been established for the Key Measures: Health and Cleanliness, Safety and Security, Condition of Facilities, Responsiveness, Resource Setting, and Permit Administration & Monitoring, Interpretive Product Development & Revision, Interpretive Product Delivery and Exhibit & Audio-Visual Systems Condition.

Critical National Standards are identified with an asterisk (*). If not met, the resulting conditions pose a high probability of immediate or permanent loss to people or property. If they cannot be met, due to budget or other constraints, immediate action must be taken to correct or mitigate the problem. Immediate action may include closing to public use the site, trail, area, permit, or portions of the affected site, trail or area. If conditions, facilities, or services addressed by "non-critical" standards decline to the point where the health or safety of the visitor is threatened, then mitigating actions must be taken.

Key Measure: HEALTH AND CLEANLINESS

1. *Visitors are not exposed to human waste.
2. *Water, wastewater, and sewage treatment systems meet Federal, state and local water quality regulations.
3. Garbage does not exceed the capacity of garbage containers.
4. Individual units and common areas are free of litter including domestic animal waste.
5. Facilities are free of graffiti.
6. Restrooms and garbage locations are free of objectionable odor.
7. Constructed features are clean.

Key Measure: RESOURCE SETTING

1. *Effects from recreation use do not conflict with environmental laws (such as ESA, NHPA, Clean Water, TES, etc).

2. Recreation opportunities, site development, and site management are consistent with Recreation management system (ROS, SMS, BBM) objectives, development scale, and the Forest land management plan.
3. Landscape character at the developed recreation site is consistent with the Forest scenic integrity objectives.
4. Visitors and vehicles do not exceed site capacity.

Key Measure: SAFETY & SECURITY

1. *High-risk conditions do not exist in developed recreation sites.
2. *Utility inspections meet Federal, state, and local requirements.
3. Laws, regulations and special orders are enforced.
4. Visitors are provided a sense of security

Key Measure: RESPONSIVENESS

1. *When signed as accessible, constructed features meet current accessibility guidelines.
2. Visitors feel welcome.
3. Information boards are posted in a user-friendly and professional manner.
4. Visitors are provided opportunities to communicate satisfactions (needs, expectations).
5. Visitor information facilities are staffed appropriately during seasons of use and current information is available.
6. Recreation site information is accurate and available from a variety of sources and outlets.

Key Measure: CONDITION OF FACILITIES

1. Constructed features are serviceable and in good repair throughout the designed service life.
2. Constructed features in disrepair due to lack of scheduled maintenance, or in non-compliance with safety codes (e.g. life safety, OSHA, environmental, etc.) or other regulatory requirements (ABA/ADA, etc.), or beyond the designed service life, are repaired, rehabilitated, replaced, or decommissioned.
3. New, altered, or expanded constructed features meet FS design standards and are consistent with an approved site development plan, including an accessibility transition plan.